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An investigation of letters written and received by pupils of grades four through seven

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An Investigation of Letters Written and Received by Pupils of Grades Four Through Seven

by

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submitted in partial fulfillment of the

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The writer wishes to express
sincere appreciation to the
great number of people who
have so willingly contributed to
the preparation and compilation
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CHAPTER I

Purpose and Review of Previous Studies

The purpose of this study was to find out the number of letters written and mailed as well as received by pupils of grades four, five, six, and seven, and to find also the types of letters written.

This study would be of value to those interested in knowing just how much letter writing was being done by pupils of the elementary grades as well as those of grade seven. It would serve as a factor for determining the actual amount of instruction necessary. Much can be done through letter writing to contribute to education for home and family living by giving children the desire and ability to write the kind of letters that enrich their relationship with other persons.

McKee 1/ states that:

> "Few if any escape its needs and use. Most certainly it should receive the major emphasis in the teaching of written language, and instruction devoted to it should include the writing of friendly letters, business letters of all types, notes, invitations, and acceptances."

1/ P. McKee, Language in the Elementary Schools (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1942)

Letter writing is the most important type of written work done by the majority of people as well as being the most fundamental instructional job in written composition. Yet, as far as known no one has ever measured the amount done by pupils to show of how much importance it really is. There would be less teaching done with little purpose behind it other than stressing form in such a case. Only recently has the school begun to provide the stimuli to letter writing that it might through the provision of real situations. Yet few know how often children use such opportunities to write. It is true that children are interested in receiving letters at an early age and take an interest in attempting to write before being able to. All know the purpose of letter writing long before entering school.

Today letter writing holds a place of great prominence. Its importance in keeping the family united, in enriching home life, in preserving friendship, and other enjoyable incidents is of great value. There has been a great need for this unity with members of the family departed from the homes into different branches of the armed services. The children, like their parents, too wish to participate in doing their part in sending some enjoyment to those so far away, even if only by writing. This study would be of value to measure the actual amount of letters being written those in the service. There is need to use real life situations in letter writing and this information would be of great use to a teacher.

There would be the feeling within the child, while writing such letters, that he too was of importance.

Baruch 2/ states:

> "Children want to know that they can be of some help in the war. Even the youngest enjoy spasmodic bits of helping. Whereas those in the middle years and early adolescence attain an augmented sense of their own when they have joined up to contribute their share."

In the present crisis we all want to help. Wolf 3/ also believes that children are no different. They too want to know that a job is well finished and that they have had a chance to help, even though it is only indirectly.

A study reported by West 4/ was of value along that line. Children were writing to fathers, brothers, sisters, and relatives in the service. The real situation for writing was utilized, though the purpose was to have the letters express the child's personality and have each letter as individual as the child.

Penick 5/ also reported the work in letter writing done by the boys in a military academy to those in the service.

2/ D. Baruch, You Your Children and War (New York: D. Appleton Company, 1942)

3/ W. M. Wolf, Our Children Face War (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1942)

4/ L. West, "Improving Children's Letters" Elementary English Review, 21: 303 - 4, December, 1944.

5/ H. M. Penick, "Letters to Service Men" Junior College Journal, 13: 298, February, 1943.

There a list was furnished with the names of the Old Boys in the services with the addresses in camps as well as A.P.O.'s in San Francisco and New York. Each cadet there took a name and wrote a friendly letter. He told of changes in regulations, success of the teams, and other items. Those letters were handed to the instructor before being mailed, but no attempt was made to dictate what the cadet was to write in his letter. The replies to those letters were brought into class and read aloud.

Fitzgerald 6/ has done a number of studies on letter writing: 1. determining the situations in which children wrote letters in life outside the school where different subject experiences in the letters were dealt with; 2. reporting an appraisal of language errors found in the life letters written by third, fourth, and fifth grade children in order to determine the most frequent difficulties of children on the three levels; 3. reporting the findings of an investigation designed to show the letter form errors which were made by fifth grade children in letters written in life outside the school.

6/ J. A. Fitzgerald, "Situations in Which Children Write Letters in Life Outside the School" Educational Method, 12: 223 - 31, January, 1933.

J. A. Fitzgerald, "Crucial Language Difficulties in Letter Writing of Elementary School Children" Elementary English Review, 21: 14 - 19, January, 1944.

J. A. Fitzgerald and P.S. Geoghegan, "Letter Form Errors in Letters Written by Fifth Grade Pupils" Elementary School Journal, 35: 42 - 47, September, 1934.

Other studies reported in the letter writing field show evidence that schools have begun to provide the stimuli needed. Walsh 7/, Falk 8/, Zeligs 9/, and Baxter and Stirzaker 10/ have done work along this line with children in the elementary grades stressing spontaneous writing through the creating of natural situations. Many stress the types of letters to be written on different grade levels as well as ways of encouraging the writing of letters. Such studies were done by Upchurch 11/, Osgood 12/, Jacobs 13/, Hawthorne 14/, Dawson 15/, and others.

7/ M. Walsh, "Letter Writing in the Elementary Grades", Elementary English Review, 10: 169 - 73, September, 1933.

8/ E. M. Falk, "Letters to Enrich Children's Experience", Elementary English Review, 18: 77 - 82, March, 1941.

9/ R. Zeligs, "Letter Writing in the Sixth Grade", Elementary English Review, 18: 89 - 95, March, 1941.

10/ B. Baxter and B. Stirzaker, "Language Contributions to Democratic Social Behavior", Elementary English Review, 21: 121 - 5, April, 1944.

11/ F. Upchurch, "Letter Writing and the Unit", American Childhood, 28: 17, November, 1942.

12/ E. Osgood, "Encourage Letter Writing", Parents Magazine, 19: 143, October, 1944.

13/ L. B. Jacobs, "Social Letter Writing", Instructor, 5: 40, December, 1940.

14/ A. Hawthorne, "I Hate to Write Letters", American Childhood, 28: 18 - 19, October, 1942.

15/ M. A. Dawson, "Letter Writing in the Middle Grades", Instructor, 53: 27, November, 1943.

Much work has been done in letter writing on the junior high level. Vosatka 16/worked on a community type letter to a fictitious but familiar character. Mabel Rice 17/ on the other hand did work on the letters of complaint, making pupils realize that such letters could be courteous as well as an artistic and diplomatic achievement. Pedigo 18/ reported that a seventh grade class decided to collect postmarks. Those were shown on a map. When replies were received, the post mark was pasted on the border of the map and then connected by a red thread to the proper location on the map.

This type of work did not stop at the elementary and junior high level. The same type of work, to make letter writing a more vital and interesting phase of composition was carried on in high schools. Rothenberg 19/ had letters written by high school students to younger children so that the vocabulary would be well within the writer's range. Thus the results would be more likely to be creative. Clarke 20/

16/ H. Vosatka, "Letter Writing Experiment", Journal of Education, 123: 92 - 3, March, 1940.

17/M. F. Rice, "A Soft Answer Turneth", Elementary English Review, 21: 193 - 4, May, 1944.

18/ L. Pedigo, "A Letter Unit in the Seventh Grade", English Journal, 33: 377 - 80, September, 1940.

19/ J. G. Rothenberg, "Creative Letter Writing for Slow Learners", English Journal, 29: 655 - 56, October, 1940.

20/ M. M. Clarke, "Another Plan for Answering Letters", English Journal, 32: 512, November, 1943.

had advertisements clipped from newspapers and magazines for articles, pamphlets, or pictures that were to be obtained free or for a sum not to exceed ten cents. All those advertisements were put in a file where children were able to consult them. The children were then able to select an article of their own choice for the writing of a business letter. Beach 21/ did similar work with a group of students on letters of inquiry as did Boyd 22/ Linsey 23/ had a file of want ads, consisting greatly of "Help Wanted". Those ads were to be answered by the pupils. An interesting study was done by Tate 24/ who had pupils correspond with children of their own age and grade in other cities of the United States and foreign countries. Those letters had a genuineness not found in those composed for class exercises. The project was called "Round the World in an Envelope" and had the title on paper and envelopes. A map was put on the blackboard with a red dot to mark where each letter had been sent. Then a blue circle was put around that when a reply came. Of the 277 letters mailed, 206 were received. This was indeed a worthwhile and interesting study.

21/ E. B. Beach, "Pupils Solve Their Own Letter Problems", Business Educational World, 22: 69 - 70, September, 1941.

22/ I. E. Boyd, "An Experiment in Writing Letters", English Journal, 29: 655 - 7, October, 1940.

23/ O. A. Linsey, "Answering Advertisements", English Journal, 32: 163 - 4, March, 1943.

24/ H. L. Tate, "A Class Project in Letter Writing", Elementary English Review, 16: 93 - 6, March, 1939.

All of the studies or work recorded by people mentioned had been done to make letter writing more interesting to the child. This study will attempt to reveal that the effort shown in such work is not done in vain as the actual number of letters written by children would be measured. As letters are sent to their destination with the expectation of a reply, it would be wise to tabulate the number of responses received by the children. Through the personal satisfaction of receiving replies, the children would be encouraged to continue letter writing. With such results found, it would serve as a stimuli to better aims for the teaching of letter writing.

CHAPTER II

The Procedure

The communities in which the present study has been made are suburban communities of Boston. One was a city with a population of 78,000. The section of this city used was part residential with many of the residents employed in offices in Boston whereas the other had a great deal of war industries and manufacturing. This city will be called City Z throughout the remainder of the study. Permission was granted to have the questionnaire in two schools of this community, with the total of 443 pupils.

The other community used for the study was Wellesley, Massachusetts. This town was strictly a residential town with the approximate population of 15,000.

> 1. "Geographically and as regards physical features, Wellesley has much to recommend it. It is charmingly varied, with New England hills and valleys. The people have in general been well-to-do, intelligent, and above all actively and understandingly interested in the well-being and prosperity of their town."

The questionnaire was presented to the Superintendant of Schools of Wellesley. Permission was granted to have it placed

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1. "Town of Wellesley", Semi Centennial on Massachusetts Tercentenary Celebration, 1881 - 1931.

in all fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades of the seven elementary schools and junior high school of the town. Thus approximately 845 pupils would be available.

The questionnaire was constructed so that the total number of letters written between the opening of school in September to December 11, were given in question one. The second question, in two parts asked for: (a) the total number of friendly letters written and (b) the total number of business letters written. The two sections (a) and (b) totaled to the same answer given for question one. Question three had five parts which totaled to the answer for 2 (a). Those were the complete number of friendly letters written: (a) to adults, (b) to adult relatives, (c) to youthful relatives, (d) to school friends, (e) to men or women in our armed services. The fourth question asked for the total number of letters received by the pupils within the three months period. This was a question similar to number one as it asked for the complete total. The fifth question, like number two, was divided into two parts asking for: (a) the number of friendly letters received and (b) the number of business letters received. This answer was to total the answer given for question four. The sixth question, like question three, was divided into five parts, (a) through (e), but the answer again was to be for friendly letters received. This was to total the same as the answer given for question 5 (a), which asked for the total friendly letters received. Question seven asked

for the number of letters written and sent without the suggestion of parents, teachers, or friends. The last question asked if an adult read and corrected the letters before they were sent. There was a choice of three answers for the question being: (a) never, (b) sometimes, (c) always.

The questionnaires were sent to the Principals of all schools with the correct number of papers for each grade, one per pupil. A sheet of directions and a blue slip of paper to be filled in by each teacher were also clipped to the papers for each room throughout all the grades.

The small blue slips of paper were used as they were of a different color and would be easier to clip to the total number of questionnaires filled in. On them was to be the following information filled in by each teacher: (a) school, (b) teacher, (c) grade, (d) number in grade, (e) number of absentees. The number of papers passed in would then total with the number of children in the room minus the absentees.

The above papers were all given to the teachers prior to the day that all the children were presented the questionnaire. In this way the teacher became familiar with the questionnaire itself and the directions before presenting it to the children. The children were presented it on Monday, December 11, 1944. They had only to fill in the blanks beside each question. No names were placed on the papers. The teacher for each room collected all papers and then filled in the blue paper with the required information. This paper was clipped to the total

number of tests for each room and then returned to the Principal of each school. All of these were collected to be totaled.

Below is given the questionnaire, direction sheet, and blue slip.

Blue Slip

School
Grade

Teacher_____

Number in grade_____

Absentees_____

On the following page is the direction sheet sent to the teachers.

Beginning in Grade Four and for several grades beyond that, schools teach letter writing, both friendly and business. No one has ever tried, so far as we know, to find out actually how many real letters children write and mail. This study attempts to find that out for Wellesley through a questionnaire to all children in Grades Four through Seven.

If possible, have the questionnaire filled out on Monday, December 11th. Since we are interested in getting accurate returns, the teacher should help children as much as needed. If necessary, allow the child to take his questionnaire home and have it returned by the next day.

You will note that there is no identification on the questionnaire to show which child answered it. Clip the blue slip with your name, grade, and school on it to the completed questionnaire; fill in the blanks on the blue slip; and turn them over to the Principal, who will return them to the office of the Superintendant of Schools on Thursday, December 14th.

Directions for Questionnaire

Question 1. This shows the total number of letters written from September 7th to December 11th, both friendly and business.

Question 2. The total of (a) and (b) should equal the answer given in Question 1.

Question 3. Explain the meaning of "adult." The five answers in this question should total the same as the answer to Question 2a. Men and women in the armed services are to be counted under (e) even though they are adult relatives. Adult relatives in (b) do not include those in the armed services.

Question 4. This includes advertising letters as well as other business letters and friendly letters.

Question 5. The total of (a) and (b) should equal the answer given in Question 4.

Question 6. The five answers in the question should total the same as the answer to Question 5a. For further directions see Question 3 above.

LETTER WRITING

Please fill in your answers on the lines after each question. All answers should be for the letters you have actually written and mailed since school began, September 1944, up to the present day. If you think it necessary to take this paper home to have your parents help you, try to return it to your teacher the next day.

1. How many letters have you written and mailed since school began this September? _____

2. How many of these letters were sent as
   a. Friendly letters? _____
   b. Business letters? _____

3. Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent
   a. To adults? _____
   b. To adult relatives? _____
   c. To youthful relatives? _____
   d. To school friends? _____
   e. To men or women in our armed services? _____

4. How many letters have you received since school began this September? _____

5. How many of the letters received were
   a. Friendly letters? _____
   b. Business letters? _____

6. Of the letters received, how many were
   a. From adults? _____
   b. From adult relatives? _____
   c. From youthful relatives? _____
   d. From school friends? _____
   e. From men or women in our armed services _____

7. How many letters were written and sent without the suggestion of your parents, teachers, or friends? _____

8. Does an adult read and correct your letters before you send them? (Put a circle around the answer.)
   Never Sometimes Always

CHAPTER III

Findings

This chapter is the complete presentation of the data collected from the 1180 questionnaires submitted to the writer.

TABLE I (a)

Numbers of Pupils in the Eight Wellesley School Groups, Number Absent, Number Checked, Number of Papers Used, Number of Papers Finally Tabulated.

Schools	Number in Schools	Number Absent	Total Tested	Papers not Used	Total Papers Used
A	79	4	75	11	64
B	46	2	44	15	29
C	88	13	75	0	75
D	93	9	84	5	79
E	109	15	94	19	75
F	104	4	100	3	97
G	126	13	113	16	97
J	200	15	185	47	138
Total for Town	845	75	770	116	654

TABLE I (b)

Number of Pupils in the Two School Groups in City Z, Number Absent, Number Checked, Number of Papers Used, Number of Papers Finally Tabulated.

Schools	Number in Schools	Number Absent	Total Tested	Papers not Used	Total Used
X	216	14	202	28	174
Y	227	19	208	7	201
Total for City	443	33	410	35	375

Tables I (a) and I (b) explain how the number of questionnaires used was derived. Each teacher was instructed to fill in on a separate piece of paper the number of children in the room, the number absent, and the grade. This sheet was then attached to the questionnaire sheets for that grade. While tabulating the results for each sheet filled in by the children, many were found to have been done very carelessly. The totals for question 3 (a) through 3 (e) did not total with question 2 (a). As all the parts of question 3 were friendly letters the totals should have equaled question 2 (a) which asked for total friendly letters written. Question 5 (a) was to be the same total as that for questions 6 (a) through 6 (e) which also asked for friendly letters received. Rather than

chance inaccuracy in the results, 116 papers were eliminated from the total number in Wellesley and 35 for City Z.

School A had a total of 79 pupils in grades four, five, and six, with 4 absent. This left 75 pupils who had been checked. Of the 75 papers, 11 were not used; thus leaving 64 to be tabulated. School B had 46 pupils with 2 absent. Of the 44 papers, 15 were not used, leaving 29 to be checked over. School C had a total of 88 pupils with 13 absent, leaving 75 checked. All of the papers were satisfactory. School D had 93 pupils, 9 absent, 84 checked, 5 papers were not used, and 79 papers tabulated. School E had 109 pupils, 15 absent, 94 checked, 19 papers not used, and 75 questionnaire results tabulated. School F had 104 pupils, 4 absent, 100 checked, 3 papers not used, and 97 results tabulated. School G had 126 pupils, 13 absent, 113 checked, 16 papers not used, and 97 results tabulated. School J had 200 pupils, 15 absent, 185 results checked, 47 not used, and 138 results finally tabulated. For the town of Wellesley there were 845 pupils in grades four through seven, 75 absent, 770 pupils checked, 116 papers not used, leaving 654 results tabulated.

City Z had only two schools. School X had a total of 216 pupils, 14 absent, 202 pupils checked, 28 results unable to be used, and 174 results tabulated. School Y had 227 pupils, 19 absent, 208 pupils checked, 7 results not used, and 201 results tabulated. For the city totals, there were 443 pupils in the two schools, 33 absent, 410 pupils checked, 35 results

not used, and 375 results finally tabulated.

TABLE II (a)

The Number of Letters Written By Children of Wellesley Shown By Grade With Average For Each Grade.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Number of Children	173	155	188	516	138	654
No. of Letters Written	754	764	1528	3046	1303	4349
Av. No. Written	4.36	4.93	8.12	5.90	9.44	6.64

TABLE II (b)

The Number of Letters Written By Children of City Z Shown By Grade With Average For Each Grade.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Number of Children	122	126	127	375
No. of Letters Written	549	817	921	2387
Av. No. Written	4.50	6.48	7.20	6.37

How many letters have you written and mailed since school began this September?

The results for the above question are given for Wellesley and City Z in Tables II (a) and II (b). The number of children tested, the number of letters written, and the average number of letters written were recorded according to grades. Both Tables have the complete totals for grades four, five, and six. This was done so that there would be a more accurate comparison for Wellesley in those grades with City Z. The results for all the following questions were set up in the same way. The results for grade seven were also tabulated for Wellesley. The totals for all grades were then found. The average number of letters written range from 4.36 to 9.44. These were the results for Wellesley: grade four, 173 pupils, 754 letters written, and 4.36 the average number written; grade five, 155 pupils, 764 letters written, with the average 4.93; grade six, 188 children, 1528 letters, with the average 8.12; grade seven, 138 children, 1303 letters, with the average 9.44. The totals for the three elementary grades were: 516 children, 3046 letters, with 5.90 the average written. The town totals were: 654 children, 4349 letters written, with 6.64 the average number written.

City Z's findings were by grade: grade four, 122 children, 549 letters written, with 4.50 the average written; grade five, 126 children, 817 letters written, with 6.48 the average; grade six, 127 children, 921 letters, with 7.20 the

average number of letters. The totals for the three grades were: 375 children, 2387 letters, 6.37 the average number of letters written by pupils of the city. The range of the average number of letters written for City Z was 4.50 to 7.20.

Comparison showed the difference of .47 for grades four through six for both towns. Thus, in the three months period covered, pupils of grades four through six wrote an average of six letters. Pupils of grade four wrote between four and five letters. Pupils of grade five wrote from five to six letters. Pupils of grade six wrote seven to eight letters, whereas those in grade seven wrote nine letters.

TABLE III (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly
Letters Written By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Total of Friendly Letters	656	655	1330	2641	1088	3729
Per Cent of Friendly Letters of Total Written	87.00	85.73	87.04	86.70	83.50	85.75

TABLE III (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly
Letters Written By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Total of Friendly Letters	475	669	859	2003
Per Cent of Friendly Letters of Total Written	86.52	81.88	93.36	83.91

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[illegible]

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

How many of these letters were sent as friendly letters?

Tables III (a) and III (b) give the results of friendly letters written by pupils of Wellesley and City Z by first showing the total number written and then the per cent for that number. All results for each question were found by grades. The total per-centages for Wellesley ranged from 83.50% to 87.04%. The results by grades were: grade four, 656 letters, 87.00%; grade five, 655 letters, 86.73%; grade six, 1330 letters, 87.04%; and grade seven, 1088 letters, 83.50%. The total and per cent of friendly letters for grades four through six were: 2641 letters, 86.70%; and totals for grades four through seven were: 3729 letters, 85.75%. The difference between these grades was 3.54%.

City Z had a range of 81.88% to 93.36% for friendly letters written. The results by grades were: grade four, 475 letters, 86.52%; grade five, 669 letters, 81.88%; grade six, 859 letters, 93.36%. The totals for all three grades of City Z were 2003 letters, with 83.91% of all letters written as friendly letters. The difference between these grades was 11.48%.

The comparison of these results showed that grade five had the lowest per cent for both towns for grades four through six. The results for Wellesley showed that grade seven had the lowest per cent of friendly letters written. The three totals showed that all grades wrote nearly the same amount of friendly letters with the difference of 3.40%.

TABLE IV (a)

Number and Per Cent of Business Letters
Written By the Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. no. of Business Letters	98	109	198	405	215	620
Per Cent of Business Letters	13.00	14.27	12.96	13.30	16.50	14.26

TABLE IV (b)

Number and Per Cent of Business Letters
Written By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. no. of Business Letters	74	148	62	384
Per Cent of Business Letters	13.34	18.11	6.74	16.08

How many of these letters were sent as business letters?

Tables IV (a) and IV (b) give the number of business letters written with the per-centages shown by grades. The total per cent range for business letters written by pupils of Wellesley was 12.96% to 16.50%. Grades four through six had the difference of only 1.31%. The results by grades were: grade four, 98 letters, 13.00%; grade five, 109 letters, 14.27%; grade six, 198 letters, 12.96%; and grade seven, 215 letters, 16.50%. The totals of grades four through six were 405 letters, 13.30%. The town totals were 620 letters, with 14.26%.

City Z had a greater range of per cents. That was 6.74% to 18.11%. The results for the grades were: grade four, 74 letters, 13.34%; grade five, 148 letters, 18.11%; grade six, 62 letters, 6.74%. The totals for the city were 384 letters, and 16.08%.

The total per cent of both town and city for grades four through six, had the difference of 2.78%. Children of grades four through seven approximately 14% as business letters.

TABLE V (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters
Written to Adults by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. of Friendly Letters Written To Adults	109	31	109	249	77	326
Per Cent of Friendly Letters To Adults	16.61	4.73	8.19	9.43	7.08	8.74

TABLE V (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters
Written to Adults by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. of Friendly Letters Written To Adults	27	68	47	142
Per Cent of Friendly Letters To Adults	5.68	10.16	5.46	7.08

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to adults?

Wellesley had the range of 4.73% to 16.61% for the friendly letters written to adults, 11.88% was the difference. The results found by grades were: grade four, 109 letters, 16.61%; grade five, 31 letters, 4.73%; grade six, 109 letters, 8.19%; and grade seven, 77 letters, 7.08%. The totals for grades four through six were 24 letters and 9.43%. The town totals were 326 letters with 8.74% of friendly letters written to adults.

City Z had a range of 5.46% to 10.16% with the difference of 4.70% between the grades. The results by grades were: grade four, 27 letters, 5.68%; grade five, 68 letters, 10.16%; and grade six, 47 letters, 5.46%. The totals for the city were 142 letters, and 7.08%.

The comparison of the two tables showed the difference of only 2.35% for grades four through six. Less than 10% of the friendly letters written were sent to adults who were not related to the pupils.

TABLE VI (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Adult Relatives by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. to Adult Relatives	183	105	286	574	143	717
Per Cent To Adult Relatives	27.89	16.03	21.48	11.73	13.14	19.23

TABLE VI (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Adult Relatives by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. to Adult Relatives	138	71	119	328
Per Cent To Adult Relatives	29.05	10.61	13.84	16.38

Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to adult relatives?

The table for Wellesley had the range of 13.14% to 27.89% with the difference of 14.75%. The results by grades were: grade four, 183 letters, 27.89%; grade five, 105 letters, 16.03%; grade six, 286 letters, 21.48%; and grade seven, 143 letters, 13.14%. The totals of grades four through six were 574 letters, 11.73%. The town totals were 717 letters, 19.23%.

City Z had a greater range of 10.61% to 29.05% with a difference of 18.44% between scores. The results by grades were: grade four, 138 letters, 29.05%; grade five, 71 letters, 10.61%; and grade six, 119 letters, 13.84%. The totals for the city were 328 letters and 16.38%.

Compared, the town and city followed the same pattern for grades. Thus, pupils of grade four wrote more friendly letters to adult relatives than any other grade. Approximately 16% of the friendly letters written were sent to adult relatives.

TABLE VII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Youthful Relatives by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. to Youthful Relatives	40	71	156	267	102	369
Per Cent to Youthful Relatives	6.10	10.70	11.72	10.11	9.37	9.90

TABLE VII (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Youthful Relatives by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. to Youthful Relatives	32	43	77	152
Per Cent to Youthful Relatives	6.74	6.42	8.95	7.59

Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to youthful relatives?

The range from the lowest per cent for Wellesley which is 6.10%, to 11.72% has the difference of only 5.72%. Grade four has the lowest with 40 letters, 6.10%; grade five, 71 letters, 10.70%; grade six, 156 letters, 11.72%; and grade seven 102 letters, 9.37%. The totals for grades four through six were 267 letters, 10.11%. The town totals were 369 letters, 9.90%.

City Z had the range of 6.42% to 8.95% with the difference of 2.53%. Grade four had the lowest with 32 letters, 6.74%; grade five, 43 letters, 6.42%; and grade six, 77 letters, 8.95%. The city totals were 152 letters, and 7.59%.

Between the two tables, there was the difference of 2.52% with the children of Wellesley writing that many more letters. Both totals for Wellesley had 10% of the friendly letters written to youthful relatives. Approximately 9% of all the children's letters were written to youthful relatives.

TABLE VIII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to School Friends by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Total Letters to School Friends	86	132	225	443	177	620
Per Cent of Letters to School Friends	13.11	20.15	16.90	16.77	16.27	16.63

TABLE VIII (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to School Friends by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Total Letters to School Friends	25	97	55	177
Per Cent of Letters to School Friends	5.26	14.50	6.39	8.84

Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to school friends?

This question included the letters written to youthful friends as well as school friends. The results by grades were: grade four, 86 letters, 13.11%; grade five, 132 letters, 20.15%; grade six, 225 letters, 16.90%; and grade seven, 177 letters, 16.27%. The elementary totals were 443 letters, 16.77%. The town totals were 620 letters with 16.63%, the difference between grades four and five was 7.04%.

There was a lower per cent of letters written to school or youthful friends for City Z. Results by grades were: grade four, 25 letters, 5.26%; grade five, 97 letters, 14.50%; and grade six, 55 letters, 6.39%. The city totals were 177 letters with 8.84%. The difference between the highest and lowest per cents for this city was 9.24%.

Comparison showed there was the difference of 7.93% between the two tables with Wellesley writing more letters to school and youthful friends. An average of 13% was written by Wellesley and City Z.

TABLE IX (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Men and Women in Our Armed Services By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. to Service Men And Women	238	316	554	1108	589	1697
Per Cent to Service Men And Women	36.28	48.24	41.65	41.95	54.13	45.50

TABLE IX (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written to Men and Women in Our Armed Services By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. to Service Men And Women	253	297	561	1204
Per Cent to Service Men And Women	53.26	58.29	65.24	60.12

Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to men and women in our armed services?

There was an outstanding difference in the results for this question as compared with the others. Grade four had the smallest per cent with 238 letters, 36.28%; grade five, 316 letters, 48.24%; grade six, 554 letters, 41.65%; and grade seven, 589 letters, 54.13%. The elementary grades were 1108 letters with 41.95%. The town totals were 1697 letters with 45.50%. The difference between grade four and seven was 17.85%.

City Z had a higher per-centage than Wellesley. Grade four again was lowest with 253 letters, 53.26%; grade five, 297 letters, 58.29%; and grade six, 561 letters, 65.24%. The city totals were 1204 letters, 60.12%. The difference between those grades was 6.86%.

The per cents for City Z were higher than those of Wellesley. There was a difference of 18.17% for the totals between grades four through six with City Z writing the greater number. The results for both places show that at least one half of the friendly letters written were to men and women in our armed services.

The following tables give a complete summary of the per cents of friendly letters written as shown in Tables V (a) and V (b) through Tables IX (a) and IX (b).

TABLE X (a)

The Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written By Pupils of Wellesley to Adults, Adult Relatives, Youthful Relatives, School Friends, and Men and Women in Our Armed Services.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Per Cent to Adults	16.61	4.73	8.19	9.43	7.08	8.74
Per Cent to Adult Relatives	27.89	16.03	21.48	11.73	13.14	19.23
Per Cent to Youthful Relatives	6.10	10.70	11.72	10.11	9.37	9.90
Per Cent to School Friends	13.11	20.15	16.90	16.77	16.27	16.63
Per Cent to Service Men & Women	36.28	48.24	41.65	41.95	54.13	45.50

TABLE X (b)

The Per Cent of Friendly Letters Written By Pupils of City Z to Adults, Adult Relatives, Youthful Relatives, School Friends, and Men and Women in Our Armed Services.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Per Cent to Adults	5.68	10.16	5.46	7.08
Per Cent to Adult Relatives	29.05	10.61	13.84	16.38
Per Cent to Youthful Relatives	6.74	6.43	8.95	7.59
Per Cent to School Friends	5.26	14.50	6.39	8.84
Per Cent to Service Men & Women	53.26	58.29	65.24	60.12

TABLE XI (a)

Number of Letters Received By Children of Wellesley
Shown By Grades With Average for Each Grade.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Number of Children	173	155	188	516	138	654
No. of Letters Received	618	657	1415	2690	993	3683
Average Number Received	3.57	4.24	7.52	5.23	7.12	5.63

TABLE XI (b)

Number of Letters Received By Children of City Z
Shown By Grades With Average for Each Grade.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Number of Children	122	126	127	375
No. of Letters Received	369	681	916	1966
Average Number Received	3.02	5.00	7.21	5.24

How many letters have you received since school began this September?

Tables XI (a) and XI (b) were similiar to Tables II (a) and II (b) which told the number of letters written by pupils of grades four through seven. The preceding tables give the results of the number of letters and the average received for each grade. The results for Wellesley by grades were: grade four, 173 children received 618 letters with the average of 3.57; grade five, 155 children received 657 letters with the average of 4.24; grade six, 188 children received 1415 letters with the average 7.52; and grade seven, 138 children received 993 letters with the average 7.12. The totals for grades four through six were, 516 children received 2690 letters with the average 5.23. Town results were, 654 children received 3683 letters with the average 5.63.

City Z's results were: grade four, 122 children received 369 letters with the average of 3.02; grade five, 126 children received 681 letters with 5.00 the average; and grade six, 127 children received 916 letters with 7.21 the average. The totals were 375 children of City Z received 1966 letters with 5.24 the average.

The total average for grades four through six was 5.24 letters received for the town and city. Both tables showed that the children received one letter less than written. Each grade received a higher average than the preceding grade.

TABLE XII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters
Received By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. of Friendly Letters Received	552	525	1088	2165	799	2964
Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received	89.32	79.90	76.88	80.45	80.45	80.48

TABLE XII (b)

Number and Per Cent Of Friendly Letters
Received By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. of Friendly Letters Received	318	554	681	1553
Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received	86.17	81.35	74.34	78.99

How many of the letters received were friendly letters?

The number of letters received were high in per-centage. The results by grades for Wellesley were: grade four, 552 letters, 89.32%; grade five, 525 letters, 79.90%; grade six, 1088 letters, 76.88%; and grade seven, 799 letters, 80.45%. The results for grades four through six were 2165 letters with 80.45%. The town results were 2964 letters with 80.48%.

The results for City Z were: grade four, 318 letters, 86.17%; grade five, 554 letters, 81.35%; and grade six, 681 letters, 74.34%. The city results were 1553 letters with 78.99%.

The comparison of the two tables showed that 80% of the letters received were friendly letters. The children of the lower grades received a higher per cent of friendly letters than those of the upper grades.

TABLE XIII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Business Letters
Received by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. of Business Letters Received	66	132	327	525	194	719
Per Cent of Business Letters Received	10.67	20.09	23.11	19.53	19.55	19.51

TABLE XIII (b)

Number and Per Cent of Business Letters
Received by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. of Business Letters Received	51	127	235	413
Per Cent of Business Letters Received	13.82	18.64	25.66	21.01

How many of the letters received were business letters?

The results for the business letters received in Wellesley were: grade four, 66 letters, 10.67%; grade five, 132 letters, 20.09%; grade six, 327 letters, 23.11%; and grade seven, 194 letters, 19.55%. The results for grades four through six were 525 letters with 19.53%. The town results were 719 letters with 19.51%. The difference between the highest and lowest per cents was 12.43%.

The results for City Z were: grade four, 51 letters, 13.82%; grade five, 127 letters, 18.64%; and grade six, 235 letters, 25.66%. The city results were 413 letters with 21.01%. The difference between the highest and lowest per cents was 11.84%.

Comparing the results for both tables gave the difference of 1.48% for the totals for grades four through six. The pupils of grade four received fewer business letters than did the pupils of grades five and six. Twenty per cent of the letters received by pupils of both town and city were business letters.

TABLE XIV (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters
Received From Adults by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Number From Adults	71	40	111	222	55	277
Per Cent From Adults	12.86	7.62	10.20	10.25	6.88	9.35

TABLE XIV (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters
Received From Adults by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Number From Adults	39	41	63	143
Per Cent From Adults	12.26	4.45	9.26	9.17

Of the letters received, how many were from adults?

The results for the letters received from adults by Wellesley pupils range from 6.88% to 12.86%. The results by grades were: grade four, 71 letters, 12.86%; grade five, 40 letters, 7.62%; grade six 111 letters, 10.20%; and grade seven, 55 letters, 6.88%. The elementary grade results were 222 letters with 10.25%. The town results were 277 letters with 9.35%.

City Z had a greater range of per cents. These were 4.45% to 12.26% with the difference of 7.81%. The results by grades were: grade four, 39 letters, 12.26%; grade five, 41 letters, 4.45%; and grade six, 63 letters, 9.26%. The totals for the city were 143 letters with 9.17%.

Grade four, as shown in both tables, received the greater per cent of letters from adults as compared with other grades. The difference between totals for Wellesley and City Z was only .95%. Approximately 10% of the friendly letters received came from adults.

TABLE XV (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Adult Relatives By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Total Letters From Adult Relatives	139	87	203	429	116	545
Per Cent From Adult Relatives	25.18	16.57	18.66	19.81	14.51	18.39

TABLE XV (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Adult Relatives By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Total Letters From Adult Relatives	93	66	118	277
Per Cent From Adult Relatives	29.24	11.91	17.23	17.84

Of the letters received, how many were from adult relatives?

Wellesley had the highest total per cents of the two tables for letters received from adult relatives. The results were: grade four, 139 letters, 25.18%; grade five, 87 letters, 16.57%; grade six, 203 letters, 18.66%; and grade seven, 116 letters, 14.51%. The results for grades four through six were 429 letters with 19.81%. The town results were 545 letters with 18.39%. The difference between grade four and seven was 10.67%. The two totals for Wellesley were near with 1.42% the difference.

The results for City Z were: grade four, 93 letters, 29.24%; grade five, 66 letters, 11.91% and grade six, 118 letters, 17.23%. The city results were 277 letters with 17.84%. Thus the difference was 18.33% between the highest and lowest scores.

The results for the two tables gave grade four the highest per cent receiving mail from adult relatives. The approximate per cent of friendly letters received from adult relatives was 18%.

TABLE XVI (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Youthful Relatives By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Tot. from Youthful Relatives	51	61	114	226	95	321
Per Cent From Youthful Relatives	9.24	11.62	10.48	10.44	11.89	10.83

TABLE XVI (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Youthful Relatives By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Tot. from Youthful Relatives	25	46	96	167
Per Cent From Youthful Relatives	7.96	8.30	14.10	10.75

Of the letters received, how many were from youthful relatives?

The results by grades fro Wellesley were: grade four, 51 letters, 9.24%; grade five, 61 letters, 11.62%; grade six, 114 letters, 10.48%; and grade seven, 95 letters, 11.89%. The results for grades four through six were 226 letters with 10.44%. The town totals were 321 letters with 10.83%. The difference in range between grades four and seven was 2.65%.

The results for City Z were: grade four, 25 letters, 7.96%; grade five, 46 letters, 8.30%; and grade six, 96 letters, 14.10%. The city results were 167 letters with 10.75%. There was a difference of 6.14% which was larger than that of Wellesley.

The per cent totals were very near in Wellesley and City Z. Approximately 11% of the letters received were from youthful relatives.

TABLE XVII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From School Friends by Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Total Letters From School Friends	92	82	193	367	134	501
Per Cent From School Friends	16.70	15.62	17.74	16.95	16.87	16.90

TABLE XVII (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From School Friends by Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Total Letters From School Friends	29	104	59	192
Per Cent From School Friends	9.12	18.77	8.66	12.36

Of the letters received, how many were from school friends?

The results for this question were very near for each grade in Wellesley. Grade four received 92 letters, 16.70%; grade five, 82 letters, 15.62%; grade six, 193 letters, 17.74%; and grade seven, 134 letters, 16.87%. The totals for grades four through six were 367 letters with 16.95%. The town totals were 501 letters with 16.90%. There was the difference of 2.12% for those four grades.

The results for City Z had a greater range. Those were: grade four, 29 letters, 9.12%; grade five, 104 letters, 18.77%; and grade six, 59 letters, 8.66%. The city totals were 192 letters with 12.36%.

Compared with City Z, Wellesley received more letters from school friends. Approximately 15% of all letters received were from school friends.

TABLE XVIII (a)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Men And Women in Our Armed Services By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Total Letters From Service Men & Women	199	255	467	921	399	1320
Per Cent From Service Men & Women	36.05	48.57	42.92	42.43	49.93	44.53

TABLE XVIII (b)

Number and Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Men And Women in Our Armed Services By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Total Letters From Service Men & Women	132	297	345	774
Per Cent From Service Men & Women	41.51	53.56	50.66	49.84

Of the letters received, how many were from men and women in our armed services?

The results for Tables XVIII (a) and XVIII (b), like those for Tables IX (a) and IX (b) again exceeded any other part of the question with a very high per cent of letters received from those in our armed services. The results for Wellesley were: grade four, 199 letters, 36.05%; grade five, 255 letters, 48.57%; grade six, 467 letters, 42.92%; and grade seven, 399 letters, 49.93%. The totals for grades four through six were 921 letters with 42.43%. The town totals were 1320 letters, with 44.53%. The difference between the scores was 11.52% for grades four through six.

City Z's results by grades were: grade four, 132 letters, 41.51%; grade five, 297 letters, 53.56%; and grade six, 345 letters,50.66%. The city totals were 774 letters, with 49.84%. The difference between grades four to six was 9.15%.

Pupils of City Z received 7.41% more letters than pupils of Wellesley. Pupils of grade four received fewer letters than did those of other grades. A far greater amount of friendly letters received were from men and women in our armed services, the per-centage being about 45%.

The following tables give a complete summary of the per cents of friendly letters received as shown in Tables XIV (a) and XIV (b) through XVIII (a) and XVIII (b).

TABLE XIX (a)

The Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Adults, Adult Relatives, Youthful Relatives, School Friends, and Those in Our Armed Services By Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Per Cent From Adults	12.86	7.62	10.20	10.25	6.88	9.35
Per Cent From Adult Relatives	25.18	16.57	18.66	19.81	14.51	18.39
Per Cent From Youthful Relatives	9.24	11.62	10.48	10.44	11.89	10.83
Per Cent From School Friends	16.70	15.62	17.74	16.95	16.87	16.90
Per Cent From Service Men & Women	36.05	48.57	42.92	42.43	49.93	44.53

TABLE XIX (b)

The Per Cent of Friendly Letters Received From Adults, Adult Relatives, Youthful Relatives, School Friends, and Those in Our Armed Services By Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Per Cent From Adults	12.26	4.45	9.26	9.17
Per Cent From Adult Relatives	29.24	11.91	17.23	17.84
Per Cent From Youthful Relatives	7.96	8.30	14.10	10.75
Per Cent From School Friends	9.12	18.77	8.66	12.36
Per Cent From Service Men & Women	41.51	53.56	50.66	49.84

TABLE XX (a)

Number of Letters Written by Pupils of Wellesley With the Number and Per Cent Suggested and the Number and Per Cent Not Suggested by Parents, Teachers, or Friends.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Number Written	754	764	1528	3046	1303	4349
Number Not Suggested	369	502	896	1767	831	2598
Per Cent Not Suggested	49%	66%	59%	58%	64%	60%
Number Suggested	385	262	632	1279	472	1448
Per Cent Suggested	51%	34%	41%	42%	36%	40%

TABLE XX (b)

Number of Letters Written by Pupils of City Z With the Number and Per Cent Suggested and the Number and Per Cent Not Suggested by Parents, Teachers, or Friends.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Number Written	549	817	921	2387
Number Not Suggested	282	474	624	1380
Per Cent Not Suggested	51%	58%	68%	58%
Number Suggested	267	343	297	1007
Per Cent Suggested	49%	42%	32%	42%

How many letters were written and sent without the suggestion of your parents, teachers, or friends?

Tables XX (a) and XX (b) give the actual number of letters written, the number of letters written without the suggestion of parents, teachers, or friends with the per cent underneath, and the number of letters suggested by someone with that per cent. In Wellesley, pupils of grade four wrote 754 letters, 369 or 49% of them were not suggested, 385 or 51% were suggested; pupils of grade five wrote 764 letters, 502 or 66% were not suggested, 262 or 34% were suggested; pupils of grade six wrote 1528 letters, 896 or 59% were not suggested, 632 or 41% were suggested; pupils of grade seven wrote 1303 letters, 831 or 64% were not suggested, 472 or 36% were suggested. The number of letters written by pupils of grades four through six was 3046, 1767 or 58% were not suggested while 1279 or 42% were suggested. The pupils of all four grades wrote 4349 letters, 2598 or 60% were not suggested while 1448 or 40% were suggested.

The results for City Z show that pupils of grade four wrote 549 letters, 282 or 51% were not suggested, 267 or 49% were suggested; pupils of grade five wrote 817 letters, 474 or 58% were not suggested, 343 or 42% were suggested; pupils of grade six wrote 921 letters, 624 or 68% were not suggested, 297 or 32% were suggested; while pupils of the three grades wrote 2387 letters, 1380 or 58% were not suggested, while 1007 or 42% were suggested.

TABLE XXI (a)

Range of Supervision in Letter Writing Shown in Per Cent by Grades for Pupils of Wellesley.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of 4 - 6	7	Tot. of Town
Always	50.28	41.93	30.31	40.50	22.45	36.69
Sometimes	36.41	42.58	55.31	45.35	62.31	48.92
Never	5.78	7.09	13.81	9.10	12.31	9.78
Answer Not Marked	7.51	7.74	.53	5.03	2.89	4.50

TABLE XXI (b)

Range of Supervision in Letter Writing Shown in Per Cent by Grades for Pupils of City Z.

Grades	4	5	6	Tot. of City Z
Always	42.61	49.20	37.79	43.20
Sometimes	45.08	41.26	51.96	46.15
Never	8.19	5.55	7.87	7.2
Answer Not Marked	4.09	3.96	2.36	3.46

Does an adult read and correct your letters before you send them?

The results in Tables XXI (a) and XXI (b) were found in per cent form. The per-centages were found for the three answers which were to be circled as Never, Sometimes, Always were on the questionnaire. Many papers were not marked. The results for such papers were tabulated as "Not Marked". In Wellesley 50.28% of the pupils of grade four always had letters corrected, 36.41% sometimes had them corrected, 5.78% never had them corrected, 7.51% of the questionnaires were not marked; 41.93% of the pupils of grade five always had letters corrected, 42.58% sometimes had them corrected, 7.09% never had them corrected, 7.74% of the pupils did not mark their papers; 30.31% of the pupils of grade six always had letters corrected, 55.31% sometimes had letters corrected, 13.81% never had letters corrected, .53% did not mark their papers; 22.45% of the pupils of grade seven always had letters corrected, 62.31% sometimes had them corrected, 12.31% never had them corrected, 2.89% did not mark their papers. The results for grades four through six shows 40.50% of the pupils always had letters corrected, 45.35% sometimes, 9.10% never, while 5.03% did not mark papers. The results for Wellesley showed 36.69% always had letters corrected, 48.92% sometimes, 9.78% never, while 4.50% did not mark papers.

The results for City Z show grade four had 42.61% always having letters corrected, 45.08% sometimes, 8.19% never, 4.09%

not marking papers; grade five had 49.20% always having letters corrected, 41.26% sometimes, 5.55% never, 3.96% not marking papers; grade six 37.79% always having letters corrected, 51.96% sometimes, 7.87% never, 2.36% not marking papers. The total results for City Z were 43.20% always having letters corrected, 46.15% sometimes having letters corrected, 7.2% never having letters corrected, while 3.46% did not mark papers.

TABLE XXII (a)

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire of the Eight Wellesley School Groups. Grades Four Through Seven.

SCHOOLS

Schools	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	J	Total
No. of Children	64	29	75	79	75	97	97	138	654
Question: 1	533	310	276	462	456	450	599	1303	4349
2a	488	273	243	405	391	378	463	1088	3729
2b	45	37	33	57	65	72	96	215	620
3a	59	18	13	40	41	27	51	77	326
3b	142	38	33	100	80	89	92	143	717
3c	47	21	25	45	31	41	57	102	369
3d	82	29	53	95	68	72	44	177	620
3e	158	167	119	125	171	149	219	589	1697
4	404	408	168	488	300	399	523	993	3683
5a	355	244	149	414	232	339	432	799	2964
5b	49	164	19	74	68	60	91	194	719
6a	58	17	7	39	27	23	51	55	277
6b	57	42	23	94	40	75	98	116	545
6c	31	26	14	49	19	36	51	95	321
6d	72	18	40	105	36	39	57	134	501
6e	137	141	65	127	110	166	175	399	1320
7	334	187	143	242	260	263	338	831	2598
8 Always	32	15	48	31	16	36	31	31	240
Sometimes	27	13	15	37	38	46	58	86	320
Never	4	1	6	10	15	5	6	17	64
Not marked	1	0	6	1	6	10	2	4	30

In the elementary schools in Wellesley, Schools A through G, as shown in Table XXII (a), 64 pupils in grades four, five, and six in School A answered the questionnaires completely and correctly enough to be tabulated: in the same grades, 29 questionnaires came from School B, 75 from School C, 79 from School D, 75 from School E, 97 from School F, and 97 from School G. School J is represented by 138 seventh grade pupils. Thus the total of 654 pupils for Wellesley include all pupils in all the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, with the exception of the 75 who were absent when the questionnaire was given, and the 116 questionnaires faulty enough to be excluded from the tabulation.

Question 1 on the questionnaire asked: How many letters have you written and mailed since school began this September? The table shows that the 64 children in School A wrote 533 letters, the 29 children in School B wrote 310 letters, the 75 children in School C wrote 276 letters, the 79 children in School D wrote 462 letters, the 75 children in School E wrote 456 letters, the 97 children in School F wrote 450 letters, the 97 children in School G wrote 599 letters, the 138 children in School J wrote 1303 letters, while the total written by all 654 children was 4349.

Question 2a asked: How many of these letters were sent as friendly letters? The table shows that the 64 children in School A wrote 488 friendly letters, 29 children in School B wrote 273 letters, 75 children in School C wrote 243 letters,

79 children in School D wrote 405 letters, 75 children in School E wrote 391 letters, 97 children in School F wrote 378 letters, 97 children in School G wrote 463 letters, 138 children in School J wrote 1088, while the total number of friendly letters written by all 654 children was 3729.

Question 2b on the questionnaire asked: How many of these letters were sent as business letters? The 64 children in School A wrote 45 business letters, 29 children in School B wrote 37 business letters, 75 children in School C wrote 33 business letters, 79 children in School D wrote 57 business letters, 75 children in School E wrote 65 business letters, 97 children in School F wrote 72 business letters, 97 children in School G wrote 96 business letters, 138 children in School J wrote 215 business letters, while the total number of business letters written by the 654 pupils was 620.

Question 3a asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to adults? The number of letters written to adults were as follows: 64 children in School A wrote 59 letters; 29 children in School B wrote 18 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 13 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 40 letters; 75 children in School E wrote 41 letters; 97 children in School F wrote 27 letters; 97 children in School G wrote 51 letters, 138 children in School J wrote 77 letters; while the total number written to adults by all 654 children was 326 letters.

Question 3b asked: Of the friendly letters written and

mailed, how many were sent to adult relatives? The number of letters sent to adult relatives were: 64 children of School A wrote 142 letters; 29 children in School B wrote 38 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 33 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 100 letters; 75 children of School E wrote 80 letters; 97 children of School F wrote 89 letters; 97 children in School G wrote 92 letters; 138 children in School J wrote 143 letters; while the total 654 pupils wrote 717 letters to adult relatives.

Question 3c on the questionnaire asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to youthful relatives? The results for the letters sent to youthful relatives as shown in the table were: 64 children in School A wrote 47 letters; 29 children in School B wrote 21 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 25 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 45 letters; 75 children in School E wrote 31 letters; 97 children in School F wrote 41 letters; 97 children in School G wrote 57 letters; 138 children in School J wrote 102 letters; while the total of all 654 children wrote 369 letters.

Question 3d was: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to school friends? The answer to the question shows that the 64 children in School A wrote 82 letters; 29 children in School B wrote 29 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 53 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 95 letters; 75 children in School E wrote 68 letters; 97 children in School F wrote 72 letters; 97 children in School G

wrote 44 letters; 138 children in School J wrote 177 letters; while the total of 654 children wrote 620 letters to school friends.

Question 3e asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to men or women in our armed services? The 64 children in School A wrote 158 letters; 29 children in School B wrote 167 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 119 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 125 letters; 75 children in School E wrote 171 letters; 97 children in School F wrote 149 letters; 97 children in School G wrote 219 letters; 138 children in School J wrote 589 letters; while all 654 children wrote a total of 1697 letters to those in the services.

Question 4 in the questionnaire asked: How many letters have you received since school began this September? The table shows that the 64 children in School A received 404 letters; 29 children in School B received 408 letters; 75 children in School C received 168 letters; 79 children in School D received 488 letters; 75 children in School E received 300 letters; 97 children in School F received 399 letters; 97 children in School G received 523 letters; 138 children in School J received 993 letters; while the total received by all the 654 children was 3683 letters.

Question 5a in the questionnaire asked: How many of the letters received were friendly letters? The results show the number of friendly letters received as: the 64 children in

School A received 355 letters; 29 children in School B received 244 letters; 75 children in School C received 149 letters; 79 children in School D received 414 letters; 75 children in School E received 232 letters; 97 children in School F received 339 letters; 97 children in School G received 432 letters;138 children in School J received 799 letters; while the total 654 children received 2964 friendly letters.

Question 5b was: How many of the letters received were business letters? The results for business letters received, as shown on the table were: 64 children in School A received 49 letters; 29 children in School B received 164 letters; 75 children in School C received 19 letters; 79 children in School D received 74 letters; 75 children in School E received 68 letters; 97 children in School F received 60 letters; 97 children in School G received 91 letters; 138 children in School J received 194 letters; while 654 children received 719 business letters.

Question 6a asked: Of the letters received, how many were from adults? The results for this question were: 64 children in School A received 58 letters; 29 children in School B received 17 letters; 75 children in School C received 7 letters; 79 children in School D received 39 letters; 75 children in School E received 27 letters; 97 children in School F received 23 letters; 97 children in School G received 51 letters; 138 children in School J received 55 letters; while the total 654 children received 277 letters from adults.

Question 6b asked: Of the letters received, how many were from adult relatives? The table shows that the letters received from adult relatives were: 64 children in School A received 57 letters; 29 children in School B received 42 letters; 75 children in School C received 23 letters; 79 children in School D received 94 letters; 75 children in School E received 40 letters; 97 children in School F received 75 letters; 97 children in School G received 98 letters; 138 children in School J received 116 letters; while the total letters received from adult relatives by all 654 was 545.

Question 6c asked: Of the letters received, how many were from youthful relatives? The results for letters from youthful relatives show that the 64 children in School A received 31 letters; 29 children in School B received 26 letters; 75 children in School C received 14 letters; 79 children in School D received 49 letters; 75 children in School E received 19 letters; 97 children in School F received 36 letters; 97 children in School G received 51 letters; 138 children in School J received 95 letters; while the total of 654 children received 321 letters from youthful relatives.

Question 6d asked: Of the letters received, how many were from school friends? The results by the table shows the 64 children in School A received 72 letters; 29 children in School B received 18 letters; 75 children in School C received 40 letters; 79 children in School D received 105 letters; 75 children in School E received 36 letters; 97 children in

School F received 39 letters; 97 children in School G received 57 letters; 138 children in School J received 134 letters; while the total 654 children received 501 letters from school friends.

Question 6e asked: Of the letters received, how many were from men or women in our armed services? These results were: 64 children in School A received 137 letters; 29 children in School B received 141 letters; 75 children in School C received 65 letters; 79 children in School D received 127 letters; 75 children in School E received 110 letters; 97 children in School F received 166 letters; 97 children in School G received 175 letters; 138 children in School J received 399 letters; while the total 654 children received 1320 letters from men or women in our armed services.

Question 7 asked: How many letters were written and sent without the suggestion of your parents, teachers, or friends? The results as shown on the table were: 64 children in School A wrote 334 letters without being suggested; 29 children in School B wrote 187 letters; 75 children in School C wrote 143 letters; 79 children in School D wrote 242 letters; 75 children in School E wrote 260 letters; 97 children in School F wrote 263 letters; 97 children in School G wrote 338 letters; 138 children in School J wrote 831 letters; while the total 654 children wrote the total of 2598 letters without the suggestion of parents, teachers, or friends.

Question 8 on the questionnaire asked: Does an adult

read and correct your letters before you send them? The pupils here had a choice of circling one of three answers which were; never, sometimes, always, and as some did not mark the paper at all. The complete results for this question were: 64 children in School A 32 children had letters always corrected, 27 children had letters sometimes corrected, 4 children had letters never corrected, and 1 child did not mark his paper; of the 29 children in School B 15 children always had letters corrected, 13 children sometimes had letters corrected while 1 child never had letters corrected; of the 75 children in School C 48 children always had letters corrected, 15 children sometimes had letters corrected, 6 children never had letters corrected, while 6 children did not mark their papers; of the 79 children in School D 31 children always had letters corrected, 37 children sometimes had letters corrected, 10 children never had letters corrected, while 1 child did not mark his paper; of the 75 children in School E 16 children always had letters corrected, 38 children sometimes had letters corrected, 15 children never had letters corrected, while 6 children did not mark their papers; of the 97 children in School F 36 children always had letters corrected, 46 children sometimes had letters corrected, 5 never had letters corrected, while 10 children did not mark their papers; of the 97 children in School G 31 children always had letters corrected, 58 children sometimes had letters corrected, 6 never had letters corrected, while 2 children did not mark papers; of the 138

children in School J 31 children always had letters corrected, 86 sometimes had letters corrected, 17 never had letters corrected while 4 children did not mark papers; of the total 654 children 240 of them always had letters corrected, 320 of them sometimes had them corrected, 64 of them never had them corrected while 30 children did not mark their papers.

TABLE XXII (b)

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire of the Two School Groups of City Z. Grades Four Through Six.

	SCHOOLS		
Schools	X	Y	Total
No. of Children	174	201	375
Question 1	1033	1354	2387
2a	927	1076	2033
2b	106	278	384
3a	56	86	142
3b	122	206	328
3c	66	86	152
3d	72	105	177
3e	611	593	1104
4	795	1171	1966
5a	675	878	1553
5b	120	293	413
6a	57	86	143
6b	111	166	277
6c	66	101	167
6d	62	130	192
6e	379	395	774
7	612	768	1380
8 Always	77	85	162
Sometimes	74	99	173
Never	17	10	27
Not Marked	6	7	13

In the elementary schools in City Z, School X and Y, as shown in Table XXII (b), 174 children in grades four, five, and six in School X answered the questionnaires completely and correctly enough to be tabulated; in the same grades 201 questionnaires came from School Y. Thus the total of 375 pupils in all fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, with the exception of the 33 who were absent when the questionnaire was given, and the 35 questionnaires faulty enough to be excluded from the tabulation.

Question 1 on the questionnaire asked: How many letters have you written and mailed since school began this September? The table shows that 174 children in School X wrote 1033 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 1354 letters, while the total written by all 375 children was 2387.

Question 2a asked: How many of these letters were sent as friendly letters? The table shows the 174 children in School X wrote 927 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 1076 letters, while the total of friendly letters written by the 375 children was 2033 letters.

Question 2b asked: How many of these letters were sent as business letters? The number of business letters written as shown on the table shows the 174 children in School X wrote 106 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 278 letters, while the total written by all 375 children was 384.

Question 3a asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to adults? The table shows 174

children in School X wrote 56 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 86 letters, while the total letters written to adults by the total 375 children was 142.

Question 3b asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to adult relatives? The table shows 174 children in School X wrote 122 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 206 letters, while the total letters written to adult relatives by all 375 children was 328.

Question 3c asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to youthful relatives? The results show that 174 children in School X wrote 66 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 86 letters, while the total letters written to youthful relatives by all 375 children was 152.

Question 3d asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to school friends? The table shows the 174 children in School X wrote 72 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 105 letters, while the total letters written to school friends by all 375 children was 177.

Question 3e asked: Of the friendly letters written and mailed, how many were sent to men or women in our armed services? The results for the question show the 174 children in School X wrote 611 letters, 201 children in School Y wrote 593 letters, while the total of 375 children wrote 1104 letters to those in the services.

Question 4 was: How many letters have you received since school began this September? The 174 children in School X

received 795 letters, 201 children in School Y received 1171 letters, while all 375 children received the total of 1966 letters.

Question 5a asked: How many of the letters received were friendly letters? The 174 children in School X received 675 letters, 201 children in School Y received 878 letters, while all 375 children received 1553 letters which were friendly letters.

Question 5b asked: How many of the letters received were business letters? The table shows the 174 children in School X received 120 letters, 201 children in School Y received 293 letters, while all 375 children received the total 413 business letters.

Question 6a asked: Of the letters received, how many were from adults? The results for this question show 174 children in School X received 57 letters, 201 children in School Y received 86 letters, while all 375 children received a total of 143 letters from adults.

Question 6b asked: Of the letters received, how many were from adult relatives? The table shows the 174 children in School X received 111 letters, the 201 children in School Y received 166 letters, while the total number received from all 375 children was 277.

Question 6c asked: Of the letters received, how many were from youthful relatives? The table shows the 174 children in School X received 66 letters, 201 children in School Y

received 101 letters, while the total 375 children received 167 letters from youthful relatives.

Question 6d asked: Of the letters received, how many were from school friends? The results show 174 children in School X received 62 letters, 201 children in School Y received 130 letters, while all 375 children received 192 letters from youthful relatives.

Question 6e asked: Of the letters received, how many were from men or women in our armed services? The results show the 174 children in School X received 379 letters, 201 children in School Y received 395 letters, while all 375 children received 774 letters from those in the armed services.

Question 7 asked: How many of the letters were written and sent without the suggestion of your parents, teachers, or friends? The table shows that of the 1033 letters written by the 174 children in School X, 612 were not suggested, 768 letters of the 1354 written by the 201 children in School Y were not suggested, while 1380 letters of the total 2387 written by all 375 children were not suggested.

Question 8 asked: Does an adult read and correct your letters before you send them? The pupils had a choice of three answers which were; always, sometimes, never, and lastly, no mark on any answer given. Of the 174 children in School X 77 always had letters corrected, 74 sometimes had letters corrected, 17 never had letters corrected, while 6 did not mark their papers; of the 201 children in School Y, 85 always

had letters corrected, 99 sometimes had letters corrected, 10 never had letters corrected, while 7 did not mark their papers; while of the total 375 children, 162 children always had letters corrected, 173 sometimes had letters corrected, 27 never had letters corrected, while 13 did not mark their papers.

CHAPTER IV

Conclusions

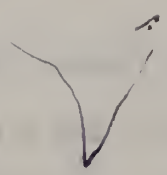
Children do write letters! In the three months period checked, pupils of grade four wrote four to five letters, pupils of grade five wrote five to six letters, pupils of grade six wrote seven to eight letters, and pupils of grade seven wrote nine letters. The average number of letters written by pupils of both cities was six to seven letters. This showed that children wrote at least two letters a month. It was found that 60% of those written were without the suggestion of parents, teachers, or friends. These results were very interesting. More than one half of all the children checked do have someone to write to without having letter writing suggested. This indeed is a fact well worth noting for those who teach letter writing. This factor would help eliminate the useless writing of letters to some unknown, fictitious person. The children should write letters to someone of their own choice.

As shown in Tables XIX(a) and XIX(b) about 85% always or sometimes had papers read and corrected. This was a high percentage having supervision. Here a question may be asked. Are the children too dependent on others? An interesting study could be done to find out if this were so and how much

it influences letter writing. There was no way to find out if pupils objected to this supervision and if it really did stop many from writing. Something should be done to make pupils more independent in letter writing.

The results for friendly letters written were: 10% written to adults, 16% to adult relatives, 9% to youthful relatives, 13% to school friends, and 50% to men and women in our armed services. These results are of value for the present time. Our boys and girls have been writing to those in the services. They too are doing their part. Yet not too many teachers have taken advantage of this opportunity for letter writing in the class rooms. Such a motivation would have mailable results as well as sending enjoyment to those so far away, as children are so capable of doing. It would be interesting to find the results for friendly letters written and received a few years from now when this war is over and our boys and girls have returned. There would be a decided difference, but just how it would differ, is questionable.

The children received at least one letter less than written. This result might be, no doubt, due to the fact that the answer to the last letters written by the children had not been received. The per cents of friendly letters received were near for those sent; 10% from adults, 18% from adult relatives, 11% from youthful relatives, 15% from school friends,



and 45% from men and women in our armed services. As in the percents for friendly letters sent, a greater percent was received from those in the armed services. Those letters sent were so welcomed when received that nearly the same percent was answered. Time was taken by those in the services to answer the letters written by school children.

A higher percent of business letters was received than was sent by the children. This may be due to the fact that advertisements are sent to the children. Many times box tops or cards to be filled have been sent to different companies, advertising in magazines, newspapers, and on the radio. The responses to those advertisements may account for the extra 5% received.

This study has by no means covered all the possible material on letter writing. The following questions arose after this study was completed. Are children discouraged by their teachers or parents and does this mean fewer letters are written? Are many letters written which could be classified under headings omitted on the questionnaire which might be of value? A further study could be made to find the influence that radio programs, comic pages of the newspapers, and other advertisements have on letter writing. What are the business letters used for? It would be interesting to get the children's own reactions to letter writing.

The study has dealt mainly with friendly and business

letters written and received. It has measured the amounts written and received by the children in grades four through seven in Wellesley, as well as grades four through six in two schools in City Z within a limited period of time. This enabled one to see how near results were from two communities which were so different. Since there was such agreement and since more than one thousand children were checked it may be considered that the results are reliable.

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